



NHSC SiteLink

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Uniting Communities in Need
With Clinicians Who Care

Dear NHSC Friends:

Welcome to the **NHSC SiteLink**, your connection to up-to-date resources and materials that can help you better serve your communities.

The **NHSC SiteLink** delivers news and information about what you need to know: NHSC opportunities, policies and program issues, community development, practice tips, and health delivery models. It connects you to professionals and colleagues with similar interests through announcements of upcoming events and offers answers to your frequently asked questions.

You will receive a copy of the **NHSC SiteLink** via e-mail on a regular basis. Your questions and feedback are important to us. Please e-mail us at sitelink@matthewsgroup.com.

Important Resources

- *Online Resource Manual* – contains important information for Scholars and Loan Repayors. Visit <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/nhsc>.
- *The ABC's of Good Health* – learning tool to help primary care providers implement health promotion activities for children in their communities. It is also available in Spanish (*El Abecedario de la Buena Salud*) at <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/nhsc>.
- The *2000 Uniform Data System Manual* is online in PDF and MS Word formats at <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/uds>. If you have questions, contact Angela Damiano at the address on the Web page.
- The *Quality Center for the Bureau of Primary Health Care* has a new Web site. You can learn about a variety of quality-related initiatives at <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/quality>.

FY 2001 NHSC Loan Repayment Program Update

The FY 2001 NHSC Loan Repayment Program Applicant Information Bulletin was recently mailed. As you consider using the program to recruit and retain clinicians, you must remember that:

- A vacancy approval is no guarantee of loan repayment for clinicians you may hire.
- The NHSC LRP is very competitive.
- HPSA scores will play a major role in determining which primary and dental health care clinicians will receive loan repayment.
- The NHSC LRP awards will be made by September 28, 2001.

It is **important** that you discuss alternative plans to retain the clinicians you have hired, or intend to hire, in the event they do not receive an NHSC LRP contract award.

E-Mail Notification to Sites on the Approved Practice List

Sites will soon be able to notify NHSC about any changes in their vacancy status. The Community Support Branch is testing an e-mail notification update for the NHSC AIR system. When this weekly e-mail notification system is fully implemented, sites will be asked to verify that the posted vacancy is still available and to make sure the contact information is current and correct. This procedure will expedite the matching process for both sites and clinicians.

The Community Development Network: NHSC's New Effort

The Community Development Network is a national coalition established by the Community Support Branch. Its purpose is to provide technical assistance to communities in developing delivery systems to increase access to quality health care and eliminate health disparities. We would like you to know the dedicated consultants and NHSC staff who are contacting sites to learn about your priorities, plans, and needs for technical assistance.

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For more information, please contact the Community Support Branch at: (301) 594-4165.

Don't Wait to Start Planning

"Healthy People in Healthy Communities" is the theme for National Public Health Week to be celebrated April 2–8, 2001. Communities are encouraged to organize public health awareness activities to recognize the contributions of public health to the Nation's well-being. A planning guide with innovative ideas was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help you organize events in your community. To obtain a copy and for more information, visit the American Public Health Association Web site at <http://www.apha.org/news/press/nphw.htm>.

"Ensuring the Supply of Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services and Providers" Summits

This was the theme for a series of 3-day meetings sponsored by HRSA and SAMHSA in Des Moines, Iowa; Nashville, Tennessee; and St. Petersburg, Florida; during fall 2000. The summits offered an opportunity for stakeholders at the State and local levels to discuss issues that have an impact on the delivery of and access to mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse services in primary care settings. The meetings' outcomes were the development of State plans and a commitment by key leaders to work together in achieving support at the local level to advance the agenda of integration of services. Follow-up will be provided, and implementation of the plans is expected within 18 months.

Did you know?

- Current information about NHSC is posted on the NHSC Web site at <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/nhsc>. For vacancy list updates, click on NHSC AIR on the left side of the screen.
- Vacancy requests for all disciplines are welcome throughout the year.